

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1, 6-12, and 16-22 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter thereof.

Please replace claims 2-5 and 13-14 with the following amended claims 2-5 and 13-14:

B4 2. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said recombinant viral vector is a retroviral vector.

3. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said recombinant vector is a plasmid vector.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein said population of transfected/transduced chondrocyte cells are stored prior to transplantation.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said population of transfected/transduced chondrocyte cells are stored in 10% DMSO under liquid nitrogen prior to transplantation.

B5 13. (Amended) A method of regenerating hyaline cartilage, comprising:
a) generating a recombinant viral or plasmid vector comprising a DNA sequence encoding transforming growth factor $\beta 1$ (TGF- $\beta 1$) or BMP operatively linked to a promoter;
b) transfecting/transducing *in vitro* a population of chondrocyte cells with said recombinant vector, resulting in a population of transfected/transduced connective tissue cells; and